



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 21 2011

Chief Irving Powless, Jr.
Onondaga Nation
Box 319-B, Hemlock Road
Nedrow, New York 13120

Dear Chief Powless:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 is seeking to consult with the Onondaga Nation government concerning the approval of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for phosphorus in Onondaga Lake. The TMDL is intended to ensure attainment of water quality standards for phosphorus in the lake. This TMDL may result in revisions to the existing TMDL for phosphorus, including Wasteload Allocations (WLAs) for the Metropolitan Syracuse Wastewater Treatment Plant (METRO) and other point sources, as well as Load Allocation (LAs) for non-point sources discharging to the lake. The WLAs and LAs currently in effect were established in the 1998 TMDL.

EPA values the observations, insights, and recommendations of Onondaga Nation leaders and members regarding phosphorus pollution in Onondaga Lake. In accordance with our government-to-government relations with you, we are seeking early input and discussion with the Onondaga Nation government concerning the TMDL.

The Onondaga Nation and other stakeholders will also have opportunity to comment on the draft TMDL during NYSDEC's public comment period anticipated to begin by winter 2012.

Following public comment and subject to EPA approval, EPA anticipates that NYSDEC will adopt the TMDL no later than June 30, 2012.

NYSDEC is currently developing the TMDL in cooperation with the Onondaga Lake Partnership (OLP). In anticipation that the Onondaga Nation will be interested in providing recommendations and input during development of the TMDL, we suggest our consultation with you include the participation of NYSDEC.

Ms. Janice Whitney, EPA Region 2 Consultation Advisor, will contact you shortly to discuss an initial consultation meeting. If you have any questions, please contact her at 212-637-3790.

Sincerely,



Kevin Bricke, Acting Director
Division of Environmental Planning and Protection

cc: Jeanne Shenandoah, Onondaga Nation HETF representative
Joseph J. Heath, Esq., Onondaga Nation Counsel
Kenneth Lynch, Director, NYSDEC Region 7
Mark A. Klotz, Director, NYSDEC Division of Water
LTC Stephen H. Bales, Commander, Buffalo District, USACE